IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A developing device for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a developer carrier performing an endless movement while carrying a developer containing toner and an additive covering said toner thereon; and

a regulating member for regulating a thickness of the developer deposited on said developer carrier in a form of a layer;

wherein the additive of the developer has a particle size of less than 2 μm while said regulating member has a surface roughness Rz greater than or equal to said particle size, but smaller than 2 μm~~, and performs the endless movement or moves back and forth along a preselected path~~.

2. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the developer comprises either one of toner having a volume mean particle size of 5 μm or above, but 9 μmm or below, and a developer containing said toner.

3. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said regulating member is formed of a material having an Ascar C hardness of 80 degrees or below.

4. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein a sum of an Ascar C hardness of said developer carrier and an Ascar C hardness of said regulating member is 60 degrees or above.

5. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said regulating member is formed of a material having an Ascar C hardness of 80 degrees or below.

6. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a sum of an Ascar C hardness of said developer carrier and an Ascar C hardness of said regulating member is 60 degrees or above.

7. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said regulating member is formed of a material having an Ascar C hardness of 80 degrees or below.

8. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said regulating member is formed of a material having an Ascar C hardness of 80 degrees or below.

9. (Currently Amended) A developing device for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a developer carrier performing an endless movement while carrying a developer containing toner and an additive covering said toner thereon; and

a regulating member for regulating a thickness of the developer deposited on said developer carrier in a form of a layer;

wherein said regulating member has a surface roughness Rz of 1.2 μm or above, but smaller than 2 μm~~, and performs the endless movement or moves back and forth along a preselected path~~.

10. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the developer comprises either one of toner having a volume mean particle size of 5 μm or above, but 9 μm or below, and a developer containing said toner.

11. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said regulating member is formed of a material having an Ascar C hardness of 80 degrees or below.

12. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 10, wherein a sum of an

Ascar C hardness of said developer carrier and an Ascar C hardness of said regulating member is 60 degrees or above.

13. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 12, wherein said regulating member is formed of a material having an Ascar C hardness of 80 degrees or below.

14. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 9, wherein a sum of an Ascar C hardness of said developer carrier and an Ascar C hardness of said regulating member is 60 degrees or above.

15. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said regulating member is formed of a material having an Ascar C hardness of 80 degrees or below.

16. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said regulating member is formed of a material having an Ascar C hardness of 80 degrees or below.

17. (Currently Amended) A developing device for an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a developer carrier performing an endless movement while carrying a developer containing toner and an additive covering said toner thereon; and

a regulating member for regulating a thickness of the developer deposited on said developer carrier in a form of a layer;

wherein said regulating member includes a surface layer having a tensile elongation ratio of 150% or above and an under layer having an Ascar C hardness of 90 degrees or below ~~and has a surface performing an endless movement or moving along a preselected path~~.

18. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said surface

layer is formed of rubber or elastomer resin having a tensile elongation ratio of 1,000 % or below.

19. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said surface layer is 0.03 mm to 3 mm thick.

20. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said surface layer is seamless.

21. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said surface layer, which is endless and has an inside diameter smaller than an outside diameter of said under layer, is attached to said under layer in such a manner as to cover a circumferential surface of said under layer.

22. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said surface layer has a tensile strength of 0.005 G N/m2 or above where G denotes gravitational acceleration.

23. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said surface layer is seamless.

24. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said surface layer, which is endless and has an inside diameter smaller than an outside diameter of said under layer, is attached to said under layer in such a manner as to cover a circumferential surface of said under layer.

25. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said surface layer is formed of resin having a tensile elongation ratio of 600 % or below.

26. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said surface

layer is 15 μm to 150 μm thick.

27. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 26, wherein said surface layer is seamless.

28. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 27, wherein said surface layer, which is endless and has an inside diameter smaller than an outside diameter of said under layer, is attached to said under layer in such a manner as to cover a circumferential surface of said under layer.

29. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said surface layer is seamless.

30. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 29, wherein said surface layer, which is endless and has an inside diameter smaller than an outside diameter of said underlayer, is attached to said under layer in such a manner as to cover a circumferential surface of said under layer.

31. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said surface layer is seamless.

32. (Original) A developing device as claimed in claim 31, wherein said surface layer, which is endless and has an inside diameter smaller than an outside diameter of said under layer, is attached to said under layer in such a manner as to cover a circumferential surface of said under layer.